

COLONEL J. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY Director

Lt. Colonel F.A. Bingham Assistant Director

Major Jerry Conner ABI Division

MAJOR JAMES LYONS
Administrative Division

MAJOR HUGH McCALL Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL Highway Patrol Division

Major Herman Wright Protective Services Division

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Service Division

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INSID	317			

The Colonel's Corner	2
Trooper Class 2008-A Graduates	4
Bomb Training a Blast!	6
MCSU and ATA Working Together	7
'Untouchables' Wins OCDETF Case of the Year	9
Service Division Commended for Excellence	10
Troop B Garners Appreciation	11
Trail of Tears Successful, Thanks to Troopers	12

The Colonel's Corner



Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Director

s we end this fiscal year, I want to thank CFO Fran Copeland and her staff for working so hard in assuring that we will have "roll-over" money for 2009. Earlier in the year Chairman John Knight warned all departments about the importance of conserving as much as possible to avoid proration cuts that still may occur. For the first time, the Legislature allowed departments to make use of roll-over funds that would stay with the individual departments instead of reverting to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year. Equally significant, on the November ballot there will be a "Rainy Day Amendment." This amendment would allow the state to borrow against its "rainy day" fund and stabilize budgets. Education already has this ability and has used it successfully in the past. If this amendment passes, our trooper classes planned for 2009 will resume, and critical hires in Driver License and other divisions also may resume. If it does not pass, we will

count on our roll-over funds to prevent layoffs. Although all other spending will have to be reduced drastically, it is thanks to the diligent efforts of all division chiefs and their personnel —under the watchful eye of Lt. Col. Bingham, Fran and her staff — that we have enough roll-over to avoid layoffs.

While I am on the topic of money, let me say a word about the State Combined Campaign. I know money is tight for all of us, with gas bouncing around \$4 per gallon and the economic worries we see play out on the nightly news. This is a very important program, however, and a wonderful opportunity to give back to our communities through a broad choice of charities. I urge each of you to carefully review the agencies in the brochure, listen to the presenters and search your heart. I appreciate Lt. Deena Pregno and Sgt. Tracy Nelson for their hard work in chairing this campaign, which has met with pretty meager participation at DPS in the past. The initial response this year has been very good, and I have to single out the generosity of the Dothan Post, which has set the bar high for the rest of us. I hope that you will carefully consider joining the lieutenant colonel and me in donating to the charity of your choice through the State Combined Campaign.

Between now and the end of the year, I will be visiting every post, and I encourage staff from all divisions to join in these meetings with me. In spite of the economic woes, there is a great deal of good news being generated from within Public Safety. I look forward to these visits as an opportunity to brag on each of you, to personally thank you for the hard work and commitment you bring to DPS every day, and to hear from you about matters of interest.

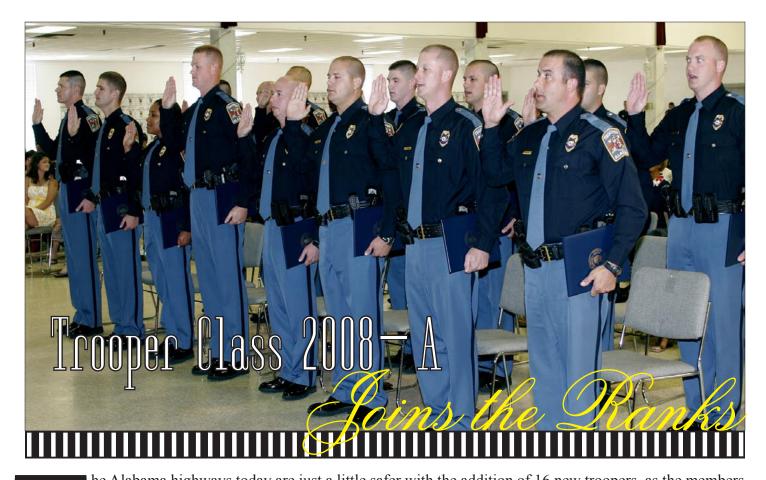
The Colonel's Corner (continued)

In the meantime, here are a few highlights:

- Fatalities, crashes, and injuries continue to decline, but drug and money seizures are all up in Highway Patrol.
- Wait times in all of the major Driver License offices are down, while customer service and responsiveness are on the rise.
- ABI has exciting things going on with the "direct hire" program, a recent instructor development training program, a more formalized new agent orientation, and expansion of the Fusion Center to include the talent and experience of CIC. By the way, I appreciate Lt. Clay Barnes and the EOD folks letting me help with some of their recent detonations!
- In the Administrative Division, the academy is attracting old friends back from police and sheriff departments, who are returning to our academy for their training. Previously, these basic police training classes averaged about 20, and the current enrollment is 45. The staff also is developing what appear to be superb leadership training classes for captains, tentatively scheduled for early November, and for lieutenants, slated for mid-November and January 2009. We already have requests from two other states to include their captains and lieutenants. Meanwhile, work is progressing on the new academy, with an early 2009 ground-breaking planned.
- The Service Division's work to reduce unaccounted for property from more than 1,000 pieces to 17 is incredible, and Aviation really has impressed me with its display of capacity during recent seminars and operations
- The professionalism of the Protective Services Division has been noted on several levels, from Dignitary Protection details to Capitol Police.

These are just a few highlights of what is going on in DPS, and I look forward to visiting with you throughout the state to provide more up-to-date information and allow you the opportunity to ask questions of me. We'll probably even dispel a few rumors ... No, Major Howell is not going to ABI!





he Alabama highways today are just a little safer with the addition of 16 new troopers, as the members of Trooper Class 2008-A joined the ranks in a graduation ceremony Sept. 5.

The day was marked as one of celebration and triumph, as friends and family gathered to rejoice in the recruits' many accomplishments at the commencement at the Alcazar Shrine Temple in Montgomery. The commencement followed a 12-week abbreviated class comprising candidates with previous training in law enforcement, and built upon their APOST certification with a specialized trooper training program.

Capt. Randy Byrd, commander of the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center, greeted those in attendance, including proud family members and friends, DPS directors and staff, and the instructors at the academy.

State Rep. John Knight Jr. addressed the trooper class in a speech commending their decision to serve the public.



Byrd presents the prestigious Commander's Award to Lee.

"The norm in today's society is to ask, 'What do you have to give me?' Our public servants flip this question and ask, 'What do I have to give?'" said Knight. "You can count on my support, because we count on you to protect. We really value your service, and I vow to do what we possibly can to provide you with the right tools for your job."

After the graduation address, Byrd presented the awards recognizing outstanding achievement in Class 2008-A. Randall Scott Lee, Class 2008-A chaplain, earned the Academic Award and the Highway Response and Driving Award. The Firearms Award went to Bruce Little for exhibiting the highest level of knowledge, skill, and safety in firearms training. Adam Thomas accepted the Physical Fitness Award for attaining the highest level



Bingham presents Knight a token of appreciation for his kind words spoken at graduation and continued support for Public Safety.

of physical fitness.

In addition to the Academic and Driving awards, Lee also was bestowed the highest honor as the class's top overall performer, as he received the prestigious Commander's Award for exhibiting exceptional leadership, professionalism and dedication to the class and DPS.

Class president Charles McCord spoke to *The Blue Light* of his experience at the academy. "The training provided to us at the academy is top-notch and well thought-out. The entire program is designed extremely well, and it is apparent that much thinking went into crafting this experience, not only to prepare us for the days ahead, but to change us into better individuals." McCord acknowledged that among his experiences at the academy, the driving training at Talladega was among the most memorable.

Also speaking to *The Blue Light* was Terry Nelson, who said that friendship and camaraderie were his favorite parts of his experience at the academy. "This is a great group of guys, and I am honored just to have played a part in it. As for the instructors, they did a truly excellent job, and I can't give them enough praise. We are really lucky to have such a wonderful academy," said Nelson.

Lt. Col. F.A. "Bubba" Bingham congratulated the troopers when he awarded diplomas. "Alabama has extremely high expectations of you. Today you are forging a new tradition of service. We expect nothing less than the very best from you." Bingham led the 16 new troopers in reciting the oath of office.

Following graduation, the new troopers reported to their initial assignments in Highway Patrol, where they will undergo 10 weeks of additional field training under the close supervision of veteran state troopers.



McCord eagerly awaits graduation, while his family seizes a photo opportunity.









Truckers and Troopers Work in Tandem to Make Our Highways Safer

MCSU Partners with the Alabama Trucking Association to Target Aggressive Driving on Alabama's Roadways

In an effort to increase motorists' awareness of safety with respect to commercial vehicles, the Motor Carrier Safety Unit recently worked a unique detail putting troopers in the cabs of semi-trucks.

In March, the Alabama Trucking Association invited MCSU troopers to ride with truckers, underscoring the dangers truckers witness on roadways daily. Motor Carrier was eager to partner with ATA on the initiative and developed a specialized detail.

"This is an exciting venture for Motor Carrier because we are forging a road of trust and respect with the Alabama Trucking Association," said Lt. Jack Clark, MCSU commander. "We have worked hard to communicate that we are targeting all aggressive drivers on roads, and not just those with a commercial license," Clark said.

The Blue Light was there to observe when MCSU resumed the project left off in March, on patrol with Tprs. Eric Henderson and Greg Scott.

As Scott disappeared into the cab of the semi-truck, anyone on the interstate would unwittingly assume that this truck was just like any other.

"My job is basically to observe," said Scott. "The truck is governed at 62, so we're going to move along at a steady pace, and I'll monitor the traffic around me."

Henderson's job was to follow the truck and watch traffic, too. The difference is his vehicle is equipped with blue lights, and he targeted the many aggressive cars and trucks around the semi-truck decoy.

"We're watching for improper lane changes, speeding, following too closely, dangerous 'dead zone' driving – basically any violation," Henderson said. "You'd be



Cpl. Keith Mickle hands out assignments to the MCSU in working the detail Sept. 11.

surprised at how many people there are on our roads who just disregard the very rules that are intended to keep us safe."

Almost immediately, Henderson spotted a vehicle weaving in and out of traffic, without signaling. "It's a common thing, changing lanes without signaling," said Henderson. "Being common, though, doesn't make it any less dangerous."

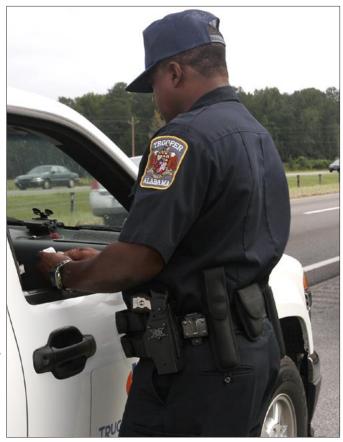
Minutes after pulling over a passenger car, Henderson spotted a bigger fish: an 18-wheeler tailgating a minivan.

The communication between Scott and Henderson was impressive in this tandem operation. "Being in the semi-truck gives me a unique vantage point to watch traffic," said Scott.

"He radios me when he sees something I might have missed," Henderson added. "Of course, communication is a two-way street. I will also see things he won't. That's the beauty of having two sets of eyes."







While the troopers that day were watching for all violations, including move-over law violations, few, if any, motorists were cited for speeding. "When people know we are in an area, they instinctively slow down," said Henderson. "We're not out just to get a knee-jerk reaction, though. We're really here to change aggressive driving behavior and promote safety, and just stepping on the brakes at the sight of a trooper car isn't going to do that, but perhaps getting stopped for improper lane change might make you realize there is more to safe driving than driving at a safe speed."



'Untouchables' Wins OCDETF Case of the Year 2008

ABI's Willingham, Morrison Honored for Helping Crack Major Drug Ring Operating in Greene County for Nearly 20 Years

ABI's Sgt. Eldon Willingham, Agent Russell Morrison and fellow members of the Northern District's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force were honored recently when their case, Operation: Untouchables, received the OCDETF 2008 Case of the Year Award at the regional conference in New Orleans Aug. 26-28.

The award is presented to recognize the case that best exemplifies OCDETF's goals of targeting and dismantling large-scale, organized, multi-jurisdictional drug trafficking organizations.

For 15 years, the DEA, ABI, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and other state and local law enforcement agencies targeted a drug organization headed by David Smith with little success. Over the years, several members of Smith's organization were prosecuted, but there was virtually no disruption in his operation. Because Smith was skilled at insulating himself within his organization, Smith proved to be a tough nut to crack, as he never handled either the drugs or the money directly. Utilizing a complex network of couriers, stash house operators, accountants and distributors, Smith was able to further shield his own involvement in the organization.

The first big break in the case occurred in 2005, when agents were able to develop confidential sources in Greene County. Through these sources, agents were able to purchase controlled substances through mid-level distributors and slowly worked their way up the chain of command within Smith's organization. By July 2006, they had identified a key manager in the organization, Arthur Ellis, by monitoring Randy Washington, a major drug distributor in the group.

In monitoring Ellis's activity, agents discovered that he coordinated all shipments of cocaine from California, the storage of the drugs in Boligee, and drug distribution to kilogram-level dealers in Smith's organization. Agents also discovered that Ellis managed this via direct instructions from Smith himself. This breakthrough represented the first time law enforcement was able to link Smith directly to the management of the organization.

Further, agents also were able to identify Barney McAlpine and Henry Pole, two major players in the organization. McAlpine was a major distributor for Smith, receiving the bulk of the shipments from California, and Pole ran Smith's "stash house."

By January 2007, the task force had gathered enough information to bring about the indictment of 26 individuals in Greene, Tuscaloosa, and Pickens counties, including Smith and all of his top managers. All told, the investigation led to the conviction of 40 individuals for conspiracy, substantive drug offenses, and money laundering. Smith pleaded guilty to conspiracy, money laundering, and engaging in a criminal enterprise. In addition, agents seized Smith's home and night club, two stash houses, eight vehicles (including a tractor-trailer), \$150,000 in cash, 15 firearms, 20 kilograms of cocaine and 3 pounds of crack cocaine. Three sources of supply for Smith in California also were convicted.



Service Division Commended for Excellence in Audit, Aviation

Col. J. Christopher Murphy takes a moment to express his appreciation to Service Division employees for the best DPS audit in many years.

Several Service Division employees recently were commended for their excellent work. During a Sept. 17 ceremony in the director's office, the first to be acknowledged were several employees whose work resulted in the success of Public Safety's recent property audit. These staff members were instrumental in whittling down missing inventory from 1,000 items to only 17, which could not be accounted for and were removed from Public Safety's inventory.



This year's audit yielded the best results to be reported in many years. The results are a product of a collaborative effort requiring much planning and dedication, and simply could not have been possible without the hard work of Capt. Gerone Grant, Titus Ashley, Deric McCrory, Jennifer McIntyre, Glenn Mullis, Ronald Short, Kenneth Perryman, and Danny Watters. While all these employees were commended for their dedication to the project, McCrory earned special notice for going above and beyond in tracking information and correcting numerous problems throughout the entire audit, during the course of many months. McCrory ensured that DPS met all requirements of the State Auditor's Office, and he responded in a timely manner in satisfying project goals and deadlines.

Also among those commended in the colonel's office were the members of the Aviation Unit. Aviation continues to be noted for its great skill and professionalism, and DPS has received numerous comments from other agencies highlighting the efficiency, responsiveness, skill, and cooperation of the members of the unit. Letters of appreciation have been received on several occasions for the many missions trooper pilots fly performing search and rescue and assisting with tracking and apprehending criminals and escapees.

Receiving the director's coin were Tpr. Pilot Supervisor Kris Helton, Tpr. Pilots Lonnie Burns, Danny Coone, Lee Hamilton, Michael Manley, Russell Rowland, and John Trimble, Tpr. Shane Hobbs, William Bevan, Brian Hartley, Gregory Rankin, and Mike Walters.

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Barnett and White holding a plaque given to Troop B. The inscription reads: "In appreciation for your tireless service and selfless devotion to keeping our community safe and secure."

Huntsville Highlights Troopers at Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

by: Chaplain Wayne Harvell

On Sunday, Aug. 24, hundreds of law enforcement personnel from 16 different agencies, their families, public officials, and citizens from north Alabama gathered at the Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville to honor all the men and women along with their families, who serve and sacrifice in law enforcement.

Special recognition for each area of law enforcement was highlighted with the presentation of a plaque to representatives of each agency. After the

presentations, the audience gave a standing ovation that lasted for several minutes. Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer remarked that police officials "received a 'Big Hug' today."

Lt. Brant Barnett of Decatur Driver License and Sgt. Tim White, Troop B – Decatur, accepted the plaque that was presented in recognition of the men and women of Troop B.

At the conclusion of the program a check for \$22,100 was presented to the Huntsville Police Department to be used in the construction of a memorial to fallen officers to be located in front of the new Huntsville Public Safety Building. Troop B Chaplain Wayne Harvell closed the program with prayer, asking God's continued blessings and protection for all law enforcement personnel and their families. The day's events concluded with fellowship and a meal.



DPS Assists Military Families

DPS was on hand for the Alabama Army National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program held at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center Sept. 6-7.

The YRRP was organized to help soldiers reintegrate with their families and loved ones after deployment. The program provides assistance for military families by way of finding jobs and other benefits by uniting families with interested prospective employers. Public Safety was invited to assist the attendees in these efforts.

"In this recruiting event, I handed out 40 applications to interested military personnel seeking a job with the department," said Tpr. John Reese, Public Information/Education, Selma. "The event was a great success, and I'm glad we were able to participate in this event to help reintegrate military returning from Iraq in need of a job."



Troopers Make Trail of Tears Ride a Success

State troopers were on hand for the 15th annual Trail of Tears motorcycle ride, the world's largest organized bike ride. Tens of thousands of participants pulled into McFarland Park in Florence Sept. 20, following a 210-mile trek from Chattanooga along one of the trails used during the 1838 removal of Native Americans from their homeland to Oklahoma. While the event was cut smaller than in previous years, largely due to the weather and the price and scarcity of gasoline, the ride was still a sight to behold.

Each year, Alabama's state troopers are instrumental in the success of this bike ride. In addition to providing escort and directing traffic along the route for the thousands of bike riders, DPS helicopters circle in the skies above, helping ensure the safety of riders.

So instrumental are the troopers in the success of the Trail of Tears that earlier this year, representatives from the Alabama–Tennessee Trail of Tears Corridor Association, the organization that plans the ride each year, came to DPS Headquarters expressly to thank troopers for their involvement.

Following research in the early 1990s showing that the original Trail of Tears removal had taken a route along present-day U.S. 72, conservationist Bill Cason decided to organize a motorcycle ride to promote public awareness of Native American culture. On Oct. 8, 1994, the Trail of Tears motorcycle ride began with only eight riders, and through the years has evolved into the popular event that it is known as today.



People You Know!



New	Employees

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Keesha Clanton	9/02/08	PCO I	HP/Opelika
Raymond Gilliam	9/01/08	Equipment Mechanic	SER/Montgomery
Diane Gladney	9/02/08	ASA II	DL/Safety Responsibility
Andrew Peacock	9/02/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Opelika

Promotions

Theresa Daniels	8/16/08	DL Specialist	DL/Dothan
Charles Huggins	9/01/08	Sergeant	ADM/Inspections
Deborah Lewis	8/16/08	Fingerprint Classifier II	ABI/Identification
Kenneth Price	9/01/08	Sergeant	HP/Motor Carrier Safety
Derrick Smith	9/01/08	Corporal	HP/WMD

Transfers

9/01/08	Captain	HP/Decatur
9/01/08	Trooper	ADM/Public Information/Education
8/16/08	Trooper	PS/Dignitary Protection
8/16/08	Inventory Control Officer	SER/Headquarters
8/16/08	AS <mark>A II</mark>	SER/H <mark>ead</mark> quarters
9/01/08	Trooper	HP/Covington County
9/01/08	Trooper	HP/Fayette County
9/01/08	Lieutenant	ABI/Investigative Operations
8/16/08	Graphic Arts Technician	SER/Headquarters – Print Shop
9/01/08	Trooper	HP/Mobile County
9/01/08	ASAI	DL/Administrative Unit
	9/01/08 8/16/08 8/16/08 8/16/08 9/01/08 9/01/08 9/01/08 8/16/08 9/01/08	9/01/08 Trooper 8/16/08 Trooper 8/16/08 Inventory Control Officer 8/16/08 ASA II 9/01/08 Trooper 9/01/08 Trooper 9/01/08 Lieutenant 8/16/08 Graphic Arts Technician 9/01/08 Trooper

Resignations

Kathy Bankstone	9/15/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Mobile
Andrea Godbolt	9/02/08	PCO I	HP/Evergreen
Maurice Keller	9/15/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham
Elizabeth Lindquist	8/21/08	PCO I	HP/Mobile
Daniel Minor	8/29/08	Service Patrol Officer	HP/Birmingham
Jonathan O'Rear	8/15/08	PCO II	HP/Huntsville
Emily Ryan	9/05/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Decatur

Retirements

Linda Blaxton	8/29/08	PCO II	H	HP/Decatur
Katherine Hanners	8/29/08	ASA II	# (B)	DL/Administrative
Lois Money	8/29/08	ASA I	ACO	DL/Medical



Capt. Ricky Peak shakes hands with colleagues from Georgia and Florida.

Hands Cross Borders for Safety

The 17th Annual Hands Across the Border event at the Florida Welcome Center on U.S. 231, outside Dothan in Campbellton, Fla., brought together three states' highway patrols on Aug. 26. Hands Across the Border is an annual meeting of Florida, Alabama and Georgia law enforcement agencies to demon-

strate their unified traffic enforcement efforts during the Labor Day Holiday weekend, one of the busiest travel holidays among southern states.

The main purpose of the annual meeting of law enforcement representatives from the bordering states is to get the message out to the motoring public that agencies from all three states are united in a common goal to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities on roadways throughout the region. Every year, representatives from each of the state patrols meet at the border and exchange handshakes in a symbolic gesture to reaffirm combined traffic enforcement efforts.

Hands Across the Border focuses on impaired driving, safety belt and child restraint violations. It was initiated in 1991 to demonstrate a commitment to traffic safety, to promote strict enforcement of those laws designed to protect motorists traveling through these southern states and across the borders, and to remind citizens of the importance of traffic safety during the holiday period and all year long.







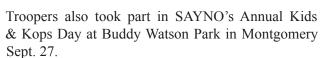


DPS Helps Make Safety Fun for Youth

As part of National Preparedness Month, Gov. Bob Riley highlighted the role of being prepared for natural and man-made disasters when he spoke at the fifth annual Be Ready Day in Mobile Sept. 26 at the Greater Gulf State Fair grounds.

The event provided a unique opportunity for emergency responders to interact with the public and to demonstrate an array of response equipment and host interactive exhibits showing citizens the importance of preparedness.

State troopers were among the many other emergency response organizations participating. DPS aviation and WMD teams greeted thousands of school-age children, showcasing the department's abilities to serve and protect the state of Alabama in a time of crisis.



Kids & Kops began more than 50 years ago, when the Montgomery Police Department saw a need to reach out to children and the community alike. Along with MPD, this year's event was coordinated by DPS, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, Montgomery Fire Department, and other local agencies to promote better communication, cooperation, understanding, trust, and respect between area youth and law enforcement.

Alabama state troopers, as usual, were a hit, with the grand entrance of the state helicopter flying in, the fully marked Dodge Charger patrol vehicle and two motorcycle units. Also a hit at the park that day were demonstrations courtesy of DPS's roll-over simulator, funded through a Federal Motor Carrier Safety grant.

The event was a great success and provided an opportunity for children and law enforcement officers to interact in a casual setting. There were many fun and educational activities on safety and crime prevention, in addition to the delicious free food and drinks.

Special thanks to Lt. Keith Jackson, Cpl. Frank Sazera, Tpr. Pilot Danny Coone, and Tprs. Dewayne Hosea and John Reese for making Kids & Kops Day so memorable for the children in attendance.









CONTRIBUTING:

Lt. Tim Pullin, HP

Lt. Clay Barnes, ABI

Lt. Jack Clark, HP

Sgt. Tracy Nelson, ADM

Tommy Giles, Photography

Reserve Tpr. Tony Dickie

FDITOR:

Ryan Godfrey

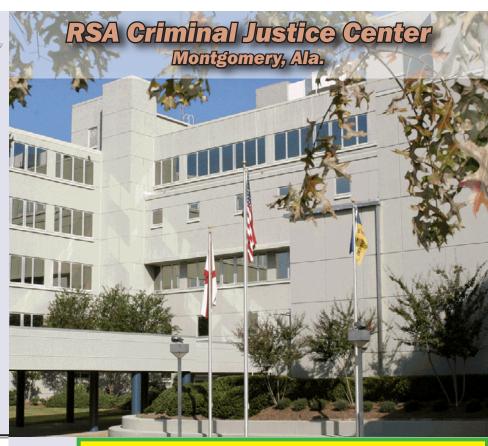
WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

STAY IN TOUCH WITH *THE BLUE LIGHT.*PLEASE E-MAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:

RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV





Training Schedule for ACTIC for October 2003

Date	Event
Oct 1-31	Basic Police Session 133
1-31	Trooper Class 2008-B
1-31	Motorcycle School
6	Radar Recertification
7	Radar Recertification
7-8	ABI & DL In-service Make-up
20	Radar Recertification
21	Radar Recertification
23	FTO Program
27-28	DL In-service
27-31	Patrol Rifle
29-30	DL In-service